

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 21, 2004. Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 are presented for examination and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, of which Claims 1, 10, and 19 are in independent form. Claims 7 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,870,509 (*Alcorn*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Support for the second determination feature of the independent claims is provided at least at page 10, line 13, to page 12, line 19, of the specification.¹ Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes an input unit, a discriminator, and a first and second determiner. The input unit inputs a rendering command, and the discriminator discriminates a type of object to be rendered on the basis of the rendering command inputted by the input unit. The first determiner determines whether or not the object is to be subjected to a correction process, in accordance with the result discriminated by the discriminator, and the second determiner determines whether or not the object which is

¹/It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

determined to be subjected to the correction process is an object segmented from an image or not.

Among other important features of Claim 1 are determining whether or not the object is to be subjected to a correction process, in accordance with the result discriminated by the discriminator, and determining whether or not the object which is determined to be subjected to the correction process is an object segmented from an image or not.

Alcorn relates to texture mapping and discusses that an object to be mapped is segmented to primitives, such as triangles, as depicted in Fig. 5. Apical coordinates and color information of the triangles are converted to perform the texture mapping. However, nothing has been found in *Alcorn* that would teach or suggest determining whether or not the object is to be subjected to a correction process, in accordance with the result discriminated by the discriminator, and determining whether or not the object which is determined to be subjected to the correction process is an object segmented from an image or not, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reason, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Alcorn*.

Independent Claims 10 and 19 are method and computer program product claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its

own merits is respectfully requested.

The amendment to Claims 2, 11, and 20 are at least supported in the specification, as originally filed, at page 10, line 13, to page 12, line 19, and the amendment to Claims 4 and 13 are at least supported in the specification at page 11, line 9, to page 12, line 27.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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